What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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Newsletter #182:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying the Fall weather. I'm not quite ready for winter so I'm hoping that this beautiful, unseasonably warm, weather we are having continues a bit longer. Many of you have noticed that my once weekly newsletters have become less frequent. This is not for lack of material but just because of the continuous flow of new sales available. I'm about to embark on another European trip so I thought it was high time to get in touch with everyone to talk about the upcoming sales.

The Zurich sales that I attend annually are set to happen and while I won't necessarily be at the live sale I will have the opportunity to view many of these sales and share those notes with some of you. While these auctions are happening now, it isn't too late to get in touch for representation.

NGSA Auction 13 and 14 (15-16 November)

Every two years NGSA (Numismatica Genevensis SA) holds a lovely auction in Geneva, Switzerland. In years past I have attended these sales and they have never failed to impress. Typically in the past, Alain Baron, the owner of the firm, has hosted a wonderful dinner event and the auction itself is a grand affair. Unfortunately with the close proximity to the NAC sale it seems unlikely that I will attend in person (although I haven't completely ruled it out). That said, the sale this year is worth a look.

Auction 13 is a small but strong sale of 100 Roman aureii. The auction opens with a coin of Julius Caesar and then ends with a lovely gold medallion of Constantine II. NGSA has taken the liberty to appeal to the customers that buy encapsulated coins by giving the NGC grade with strike and surface included. It isn't clear if all the coins are encapsulated but I would guess that they are sold with photo certificates. This has been a growing wave in the sale of ancient coins. The interest in ancients from ancillary collecting interests such as U.S. coinage, in which slabbing is commonplace, has begun to become more common in the ancient coin auctions. While the coins are most raw they do come accompanied with a photo certificate from NGC which allows the buyer to rely on a NGC grade (if that is important to them). Slabbed or not, there are several interesting coins in the sale with a few extremely rare types. Please do remember though that a NGC grade does not equate to a certificate of authenticity. This has been a big reason why I

don't want to switch to selling encapsulated coins. It is simply a third party opinion on the grade of the coin.

Auction 14 has 424 lots and starts off with 49 stunning Greek coins. The coins have 'starting' prices versus estimates where they open at 60-80% of those estimates. It sometimes doesn't give a ton of room for heavy bidding but some of the pieces are absolutely worth stretching for. The remainder of the auction is composed of world coins. There are some stunning rarities in this section and I do believe that this is the area that NGSA truly excels at.

I will be bidding by phone (if not in person) at this auction so please get in touch if you need auction representation.

NAC Auction 126-128 (17 November)

NAC begins their Fall auctions with the fourth installment of the 'Highly Important Collection of Greek Coins of a Man in Love with Art'. This portion is 292 lots of ancient Greek coins in all metal types. All of these coins were purchased around 2011-2012 so if you were active in the market at all in the last 10 years you likely are familiar with most of the pieces. The former owner died in 2014 leaving behind a vast collection of coins that many thought were going to be forever gone from the market. Certainly the death of the collector is tragic but the fact that these coins are now available again has many collectors anxious to take part. Many of these coins have impressive pedigrees and are scarce types that don't often come into the market. The collector paid high prices for the pieces but considering the state of today's market I think that some will sell strong despite their past auction records.

NAC has done a good job of having video footage of all the high value coins (most of the sale) and I will also be viewing the coins previous to the auction so there is a little chance that any unseen issues don't become clear before the auction begins.

Auction 127 is a mere 81 coins but they are all rather impressive Roman aureii. Most of the coins have a NGC grade for those interested. Many have extensive pedigrees, some back to the late 1800's even.

Auction 128 is a bit of a departure for the normal auction offerings from NAC in that it is just world coins. True, their Milan office holds regular sales of Italian coins but typically one doesn't see world coins being offered in a NAC Zurich auction. This auction has 100 lots that range from the Holy Roman Empire to Great Britain or even the United Arab Emirates. The most expensive estimate is the first lot, a 5 Ducat of Carl III of Lorraine at 28,000 CHF. After this there is one other lot, 463, a 100 Drachmai coin of George I of Greece at 16,000 CHF. The remainder of the coins have lower estimates. It is a bit of a contradiction in what we typically see offered in NAC so I'm curious how the sale does.

All said the NAC sale 126-128 should be very exciting. It will be among the first international sales I have been able to attend since the pandemic began so I'm looking forward to seeing some of my international colleagues. Please do get in touch if you need auction help. For those that want a catalog I will be distributing them post sale since there was a miscommunication so I don't yet have my catalogs. For any customer that works with me they will receive a catalog if they so desire one.

Nomos 23 (30 Nov)

While I won't be present at the live auction on November 30 I will have viewed the entire sale by the time the sale happens. This sale has some very special coins and is worth consideration. There are 364 lots and roughly 185 are Greek, the remaining Roman Republican and going through Byzantine. At the end of the sale are 30 interesting Dutch medals. The Greek section is probably the most interesting in the sale with several high

value types from Syracuse and Carthage. There is a spectacular, and well pedigreed piece from the Bosphorus (Pantikapaion) (lot 48) as well as an often elusive disaster of Alexander the Great (lot 75). I also noticed a rarely seen didrachm of Athens (lot 101) and a drachm from Klazomenai (lot 139). Lot 182 is an attractive tetradrachm from the Memphis mint struck under Ptolemy I. Lot 186 has both a fantastic pedigree back to 1900 as well as a remarkably sharp strike for a coin that typically is not found in wonderful condition.

For the Roman coins there are several aureii that are both well pedigreed and in great condition. Lot 209 is one of the earliest issues of Augustus' reign with sharp strike and attractive imagery. Lot 256 is a rather impressive aureus of Constantius I which has an arresting rainbow toning and is a Jameson coin from the Arras Hoard of 1922.

There are several other noteworthy coins so it is worth checking out.

Coin of the Week

Roman Social War. Bovianum (?), 89 BC
AR Denarius, 3.78g (18mm, 5h). Head of Italia with laurel wreath, behind head, VITELIU (Italia in local language) / Standing soldier with bull to his side

Pedigree: Ex Glendining's, London, 20 Feb 1972, lot 157

Price: $5,750

References: Campana 147; Sydenham 627

Grade: Some minor overall wear, but in great condition for the type. EF

rr1057

Buy Coin

The Social War was a volatile time in Rome's long history. The War was sparked by the denial to admit the Socii (Italians outside of Rome) into Roman society. The Socii had fought side by side with Romans in conflicts. This led to a desire to be incorporated into the society and get all the benefits fitting Roman citizens. Marcus Livius Drusus, a tribune, appealed to the Roman Senate, to have equality to all. His attempts were met with hostility by the Senate and led to his assassination which sparked the Social War.

The Marsi in the north and the Samnites in the south formed a confederacy and named themselves the Italia. They went so far as to create their own government and issue coinage, of which this example belongs. The army under Italia had success in the battles against the Romans but the conflict was ultimately settled when Lucius Julius Caesar helped persuade the Romans to accept those Italians that did not participate in the revolt.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-repuclic/roman-social-war-bovianum-89-bc?rq=rr1057

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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